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SUBJECT: Ivars KEZBERS

DOI : Up to August 1978

Ivars KEZBERS (DPOB: circa 1941, Ventspils, Latvia) is the Chairman of the Latvian Committee for Cultural Relations with Latvians Abroad and a KGB coopted. He has a journalistic pen name (not remembered) but usually signs his articles in true name.

KEZBERS has been married twice. His current wife's name is Diana and she is an ethnic Latvian. Diana graduated from the Latvian State University, Department of Foreign Languages and specialized in French language and literature. The couple have two children, a daughter born circa 1973 and a son born circa 1976. The KEZBERS currently reside in Riga, Latvia. Source described KEZBERS as being 6 feet tall and very handsome.

KEZBERS is a graduate of the Latvian State University, Department of Law. His language abilities include native Latvian; fluent English; Latvian accented good Russian; and good Swedish. His wife speaks very good Swedish and rather good English.

Prior to 1971, KEZBERS was an employee of the Riga City Komsomol Committee. In 1971 he was transferred to the Latvian Communist Party Central Committee where he was an instructor until his posting to Sweden. In 1973, KEZBERS and Edvins Evdaldovich BERKIS (known KGB officer) met with a West German/Latvian who was visiting for two weeks in Riga. The German's first name was "Andris" and he had been under development by the Latvian KGB. According to Source, KEZBERS stated "Andris" was successfully recruited by the KGB. In 1974, KEZBERS was sent by the Latvian KGB to Stockholm, Sweden as an attache. According to Source, KEZBERS returned to Riga during the early part of 1978 and assumed his current position as Chairman of the Latvian Committee.

Prior to his departure for Sweden, KEZBERS was trained by KGB Major Helmut KREICBERGS. KEZBERS was considered the best representative the Latvian KGB had ever had in Sweden. He had a very high standing with the Soviet Ambassador and the KGB Resident in Stockholm and with the KGB in Riga. Colonel Miervaldis Frantsevich KUCANS, Chief of the Intelligence Department, First Department, Latvian KGB, was delighted with KEZBERS' performance in Stockholm.

KEZBERS' main target was the Foreign Committee of the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party, located in Stockholm. KEZBERS was involved in a great deal of clandestine activity and told Source he sometimes had to avoid surveillance and outfox the Swedish police following him by car. Source believed Subject's stories as he was a close friend, conservative about his activities, and reliable

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in relating such events. One of his sources of information, KEZBERS said, was Janis ZALCMANIS, a self-styled journalist in his 60's who is a Swedish citizen of Latvian origin. ZALCMANIS, who was close to but not a member of the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party, was not a KGB agent but a very talkative person.

Other personalities were:

a. Janis SINS. SINS, a Swede of Latvian origin, lives in Uppsala, Sweden, and owns a printing factory. He is a member of the Swedish Conservative Party and is widely used by the KGB as a source of information as he is talkative and believes in Swedish/Soviet rapprochement. He organizes Soviet/Latvian exhibits in Sweden. SINS detests the Latvian Social Democrats.

b. Emils OGRINS. OGRINS is Deputy Chairman of the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party. Source heard that the Latvian Committee for Cultural Relations with Latvians Abroad (Latvian Committee), which is located in Riga, was in touch with OGRINS. About 1966 OGRINS sent a letter to Riga requesting some literature and Janis (fnu) YEMEL'YANOV, a KGB cooptee, established some sort of contact with him.

c. (fnu) PAEGLE. PAEGLE, now in his 70's, is the confident and former bodyguard of Mr. Bruno KALMINS, Chairman of the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party. In 1971 Source was to visit PAEGLE in Sweden and sound him out on various matters and collect information for the KGB but didn't have a chance to do so. PAEGLE lives about 30 miles to the north of Stockholm.

d. Bruno KALNINS. KALNINS is considered Enemy Number 1 by the Latvian KGB; they also believe he is an agent of the CIA. He is Chairman of the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party, located in Sweden. In 1973 Source was forced to publish a book in Latvian attacking KALNINS. Later translated into English and German, it was titled "LSDSP - What Does It Mean?" Source wrote the book under the pen name Roberts IEVKALNS. In 1974 Source received the highest Soviet/Latvian award from the Journalists' Association for this book. The purpose of the book was to describe KALNINS as unreliable, fickle, close to the Soviets, and a traitor to the Latvian cause as well as an agent of the Gestapo and a possible agent of the CIA. Source stated there is a serious leak in KALNINS' party; the Latvian KGB monitors it very closely and exercises some control - Source does not know who the leak is.

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e. Jurgis SKULME. SKULME was tried by a Soviet Court for sending compromising material to the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party in Stockholm. He received two years at hard labor.

Colonel Miervaldis Frantsevich KUCANS, Chief of the Intelligence Department, First Department, Latvian KGB, was very pleased with the information he was receiving from inside the leading group of the Latvian Social Democrat Workers Party in Stockholm.

In addition to his tour in Sweden at the Soviet Embassy (1975 to 1978), KEZBERS has visited Finland. In 1968 he was in Great Britain for about two months at the Soviet Industrial Exhibition as a guide, the purpose of which was propaganda.

KEZBERS is very critical of the Soviet regime and its system when he is with close friends. Otherwise, he is very cautious about his attitudes. He is a member of the Communist Party. From 1975 to 1978, he was Party Secretary at the Soviet Embassy, Stockholm.

According to Source who had a very close relationship with KEZBERS, he is very intelligent and bright. He is an exact and reliable person. One trusts him. Non-smoker but a heavy drinker; however, he is quite cautious about his drinking. His family life is happy. He has a very deep interest in and a good knowledge of international politics. He wants to study at the Diplomatic Academy of the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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